

REMARKS

An RCE is being filed concurrently in order to relieve this application of its finally rejected status.

The present Amendment revises independent claims 1 and 19. It also adds new claims 22-34 to further protect the invention. Of these new claims, claims 23 and 29 are independent.

The last Amendment forwarded proposed drawing changes. In view of the drawing objection in the present Office Action, these proposed drawing changes were apparently overlooked, because they supplied labels for the objected-to Figures except for Figures 4B and 5B. Copies of the previously proposed drawing changes are attached to this Amendment, with the revisions highlighted in color. Rather than again traversing the objections to Figures 4B and 5B, approval is requested for the proposed changes that are marked in red ink on the copies of these Figures that are attached to this Amendment. It is respectfully requested that the next communication from the Patent and Trademark Office indicate approval of all of the proposed changes that are attached to the present Amendment.

The Office Action rejects claims 20 and 21 for indefiniteness, on the ground that it is unclear how a storing step can comprise a generating step as specified in claim 20. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The reason is that independent claim 19 provides that actual data portions are stored in a first region of the buffer memory and that header and footer portions are stored in a second region of the buffer memory. That is, the storing step of claim 19 involves not only saving the various portions, but also the memory locations where they are saved. For some inventions it might be appropriate to recite storing and addressing as separate steps, but in

the present situation it is believed that considering the addressing as part of what is needed in order to store data as specified in claim 19 is preferable.

In one embodiment disclosed in the present application, an address control circuit stores headers, actual data, and footers of received packets in such a manner that the actual data from a group of packets can be read out continuously. As is shown schematically in Figure 2 (for example) of the application's drawings and explained in the text, the header, actual data, and footer of a group of received packets are sequentially stored in a buffer, but the headers and footers are overwritten so as to leave only the actual data. In another embodiment, illustrated (for example) in Figure 3B, a first data area 13a stores headers and footers of a group of packets, and a second data area 13b stores the actual data of the packets. Here again, the actual data from a group of packets can be continuously read out from the data area 13b.

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1 and 19 (in addition to several dependent claims) for anticipation by Deng. For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 19, together with the new independent claims 23 and 29, are patentable over this reference.

The Office Action comments that Deng's arrangement "must be in full compliance with IEEE 1394," and that "header and footer are stored in a single place separately from actual data (known as parsing)" in accordance with this specification. The Office Action concludes that Deng's arrangement meets the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 has been revised to further distinguish the invention, as will be discussed below. However, it is appropriate to note that Applicant does not agree with the comments in the Office Action about the IEEE specification. In a trivial sense, if a packet is divided into a header, actual data, and footer and if they are stored as a group in a memory (that is, a stored header, stored actual data, and a stored footer, present

simultaneously in the memory), they cannot all share the same memory locations. However, this is different from storing the headers and footers of more than one packet separately from the actual data of these packets. If the Examiner is aware of anything in the IEEE 1394 specification to indicate that headers and footers of more than one packet are stored in a single place separately from actual data, it is respectfully requested that the specific portion of the specification (or any other prior art, for that matter) be explicitly pointed out.

Claim 1 recites that "said storage section is partitioned into a first data area to store the headers and footers of received packets and a second data area to store the actual data of the received packets." As was noted above, this feature is not believed to be present in IEEE 1394. However, claim 1 has now been amended to provide that "the first data area has a first range of continuous addresses beginning with a first start address for simultaneously storing said headers and footers of more than one packet, and a second range of consecutive addresses beginning with a second start address for simultaneously storing said actual data of more than one packet." This is neither disclosed nor suggested by Deng, or by the IEEE specification, or by both of them together.

Independent claim 19 now recites "storing the actual data portions in a first region of a buffer memory and storing the header and footer portions in a second region of the buffer memory, the first region having a first address space defined by a plurality of consecutive addresses for storing the header and footer portions of more than one packet simultaneously and a second region having a second address space that does not overlap the first address space and that is defined by a plurality of consecutive addresses for storing the actual data portions of more than one packet simultaneously." This, it is respectfully submitted, is not suggested by Deng and/or IEEE 1394.

New independent claim 23 recites, in a step (b), that headers, actual data, and footers are temporarily stored in a storing section. Claim 23 concludes by reciting, "wherein step (b) is conducted such that unit length pieces of header data of a given packet are stored at least temporarily in the storage section and then overwritten by the actual data of the given packet." There is nothing to suggest this in Deng.


Finally, new independent claim 29 also concludes with a "wherein" clause providing that header data are stored and then overwritten by actual data. This is not suggested by the prior art.

The remaining claims have already been allowed or depend from the independent claims that are discussed above. Accordingly, no further discussion of these claims is needed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

It is noted that the application has now been amended to include 32 claims, 6 of them being independent. It is also noted that fees for 21 claims, 4 of them being independent, have already been paid. Accordingly, an additional claim fee of \$370 is being submitted concurrently.

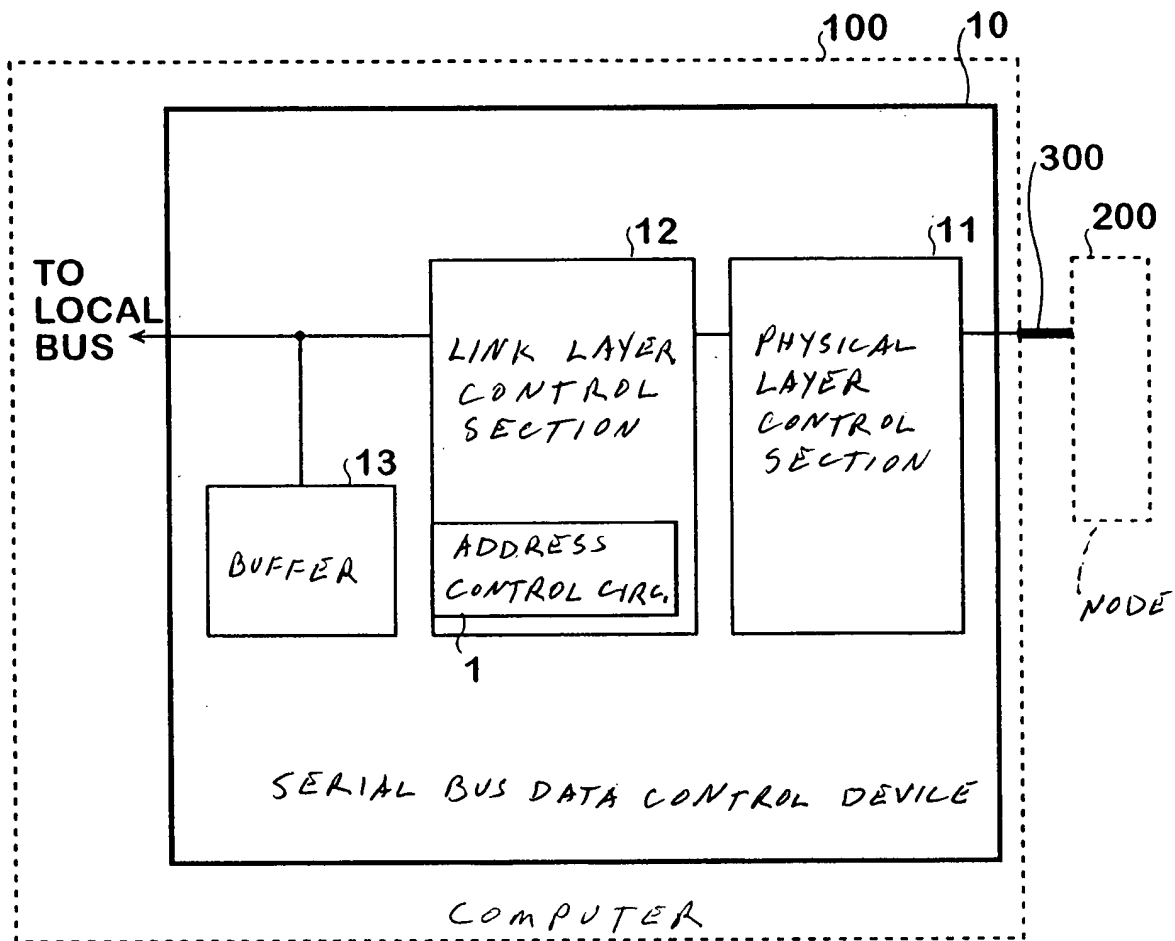
Respectfully submitted,


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AW:rw



Fig. 1





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Fig.2A

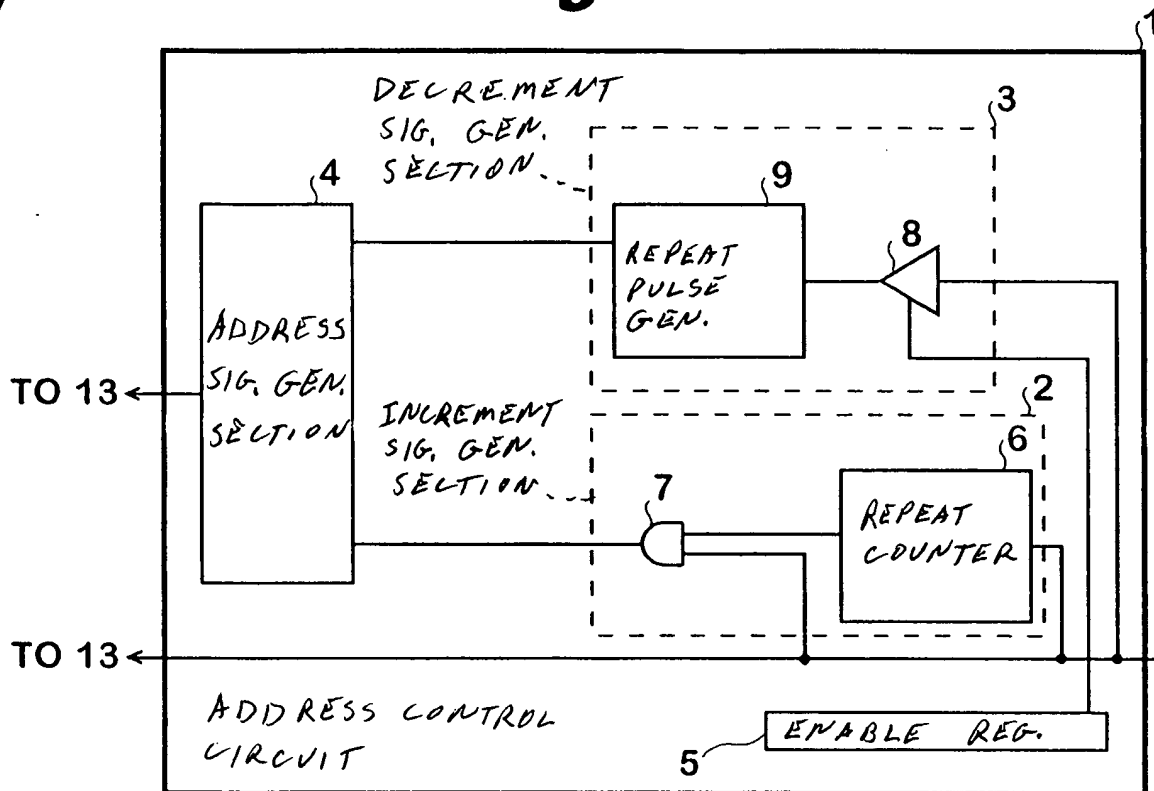
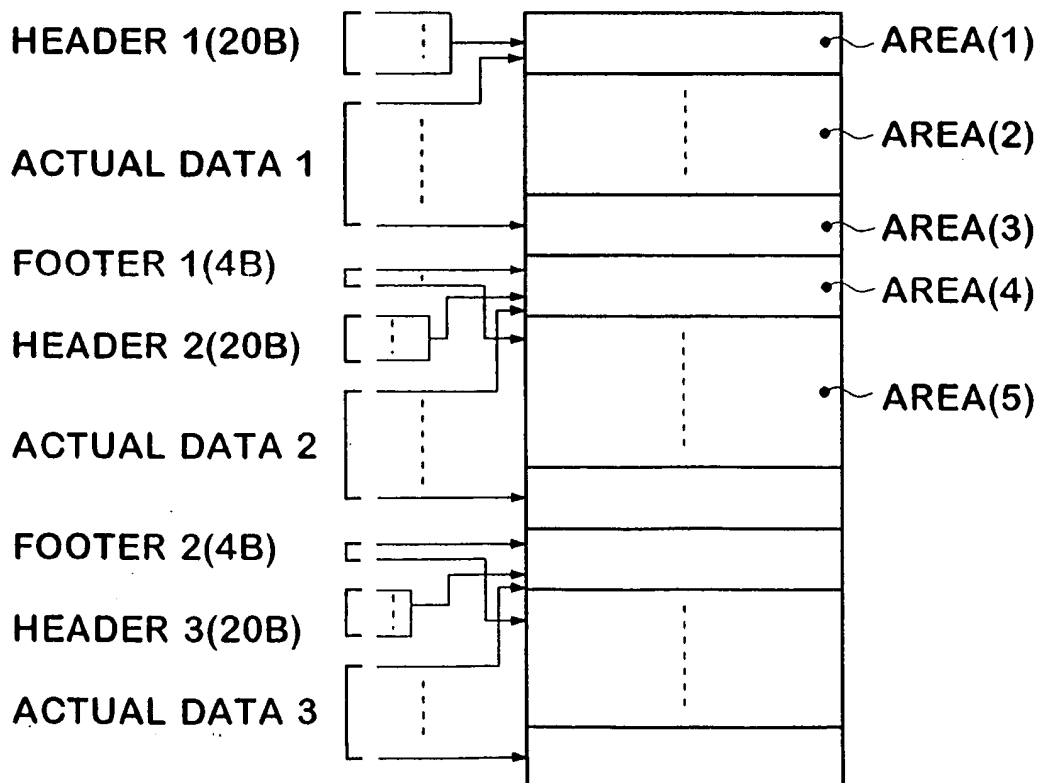


Fig.2B



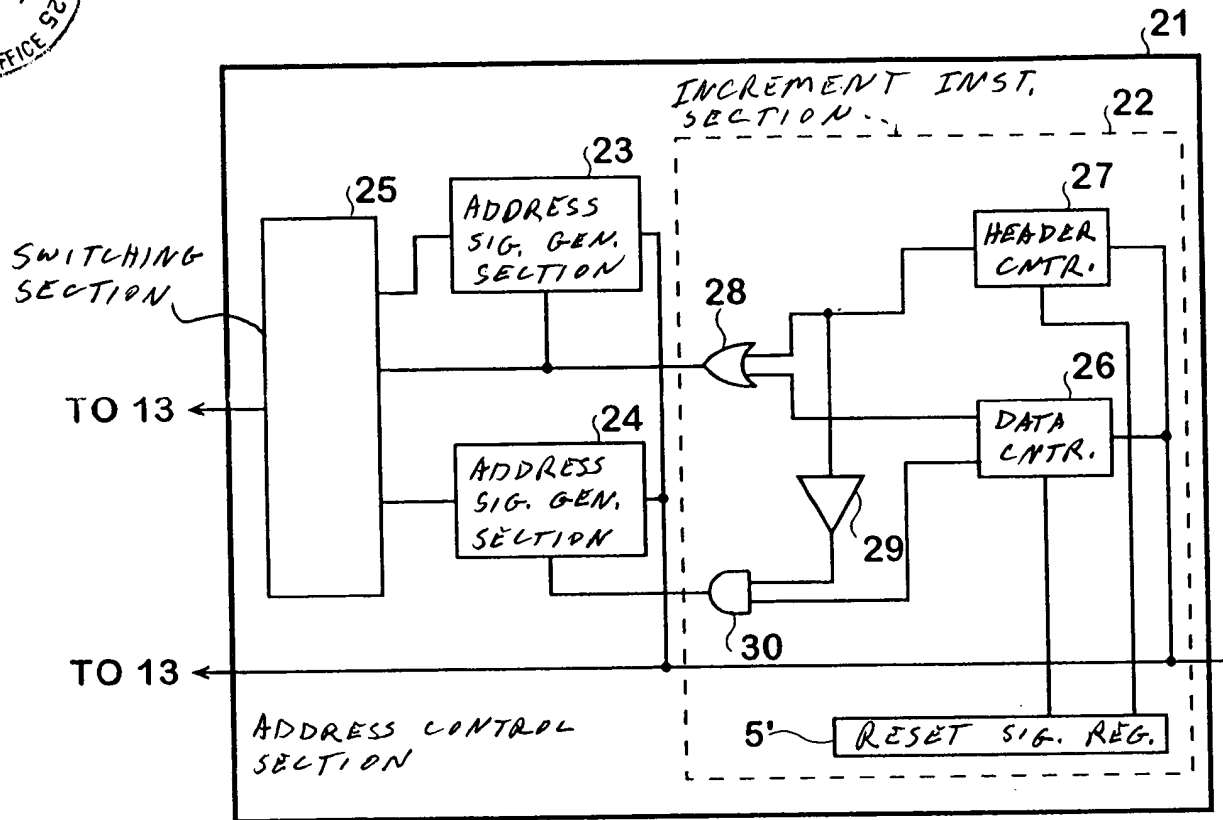
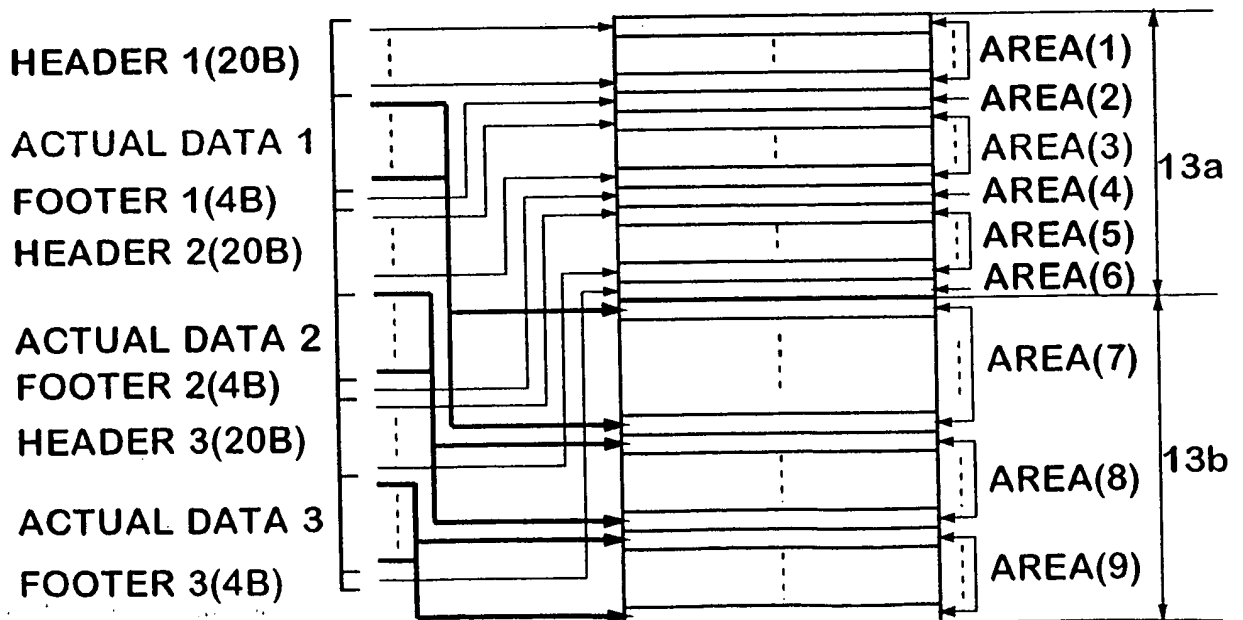
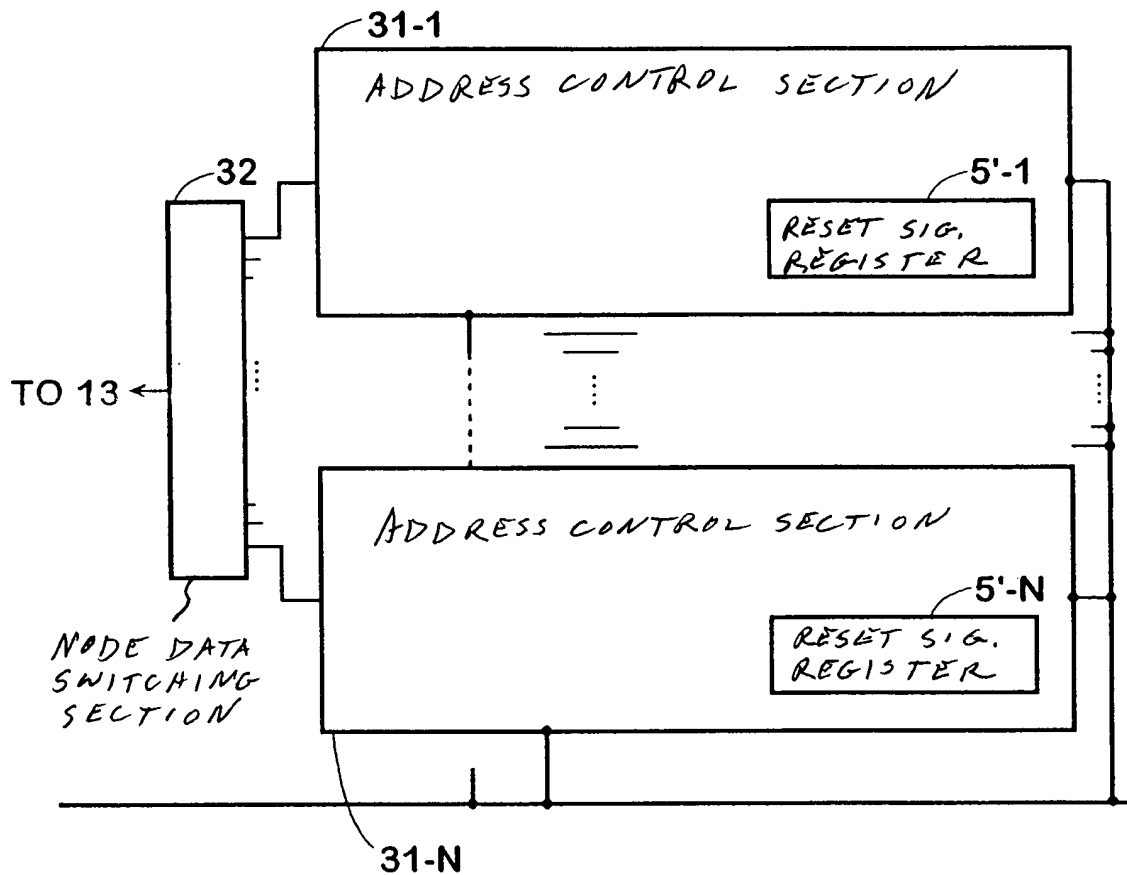
**Fig.3A****Fig.3B**

Fig.4A**Fig.4B**

BUFFER
SECTIONS

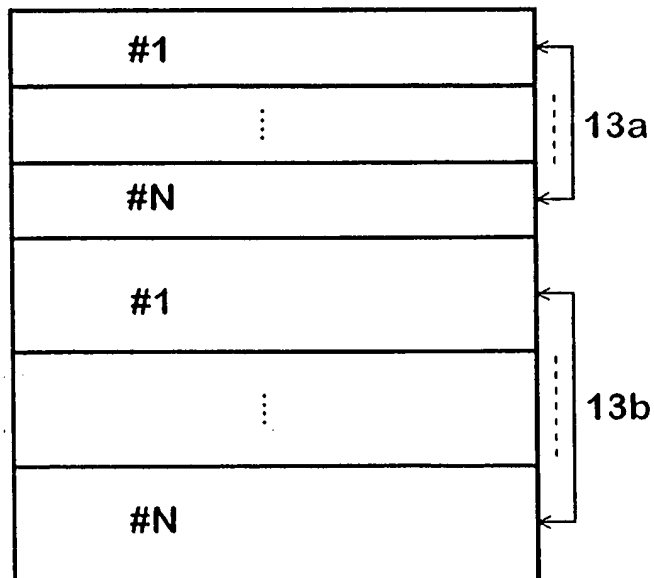
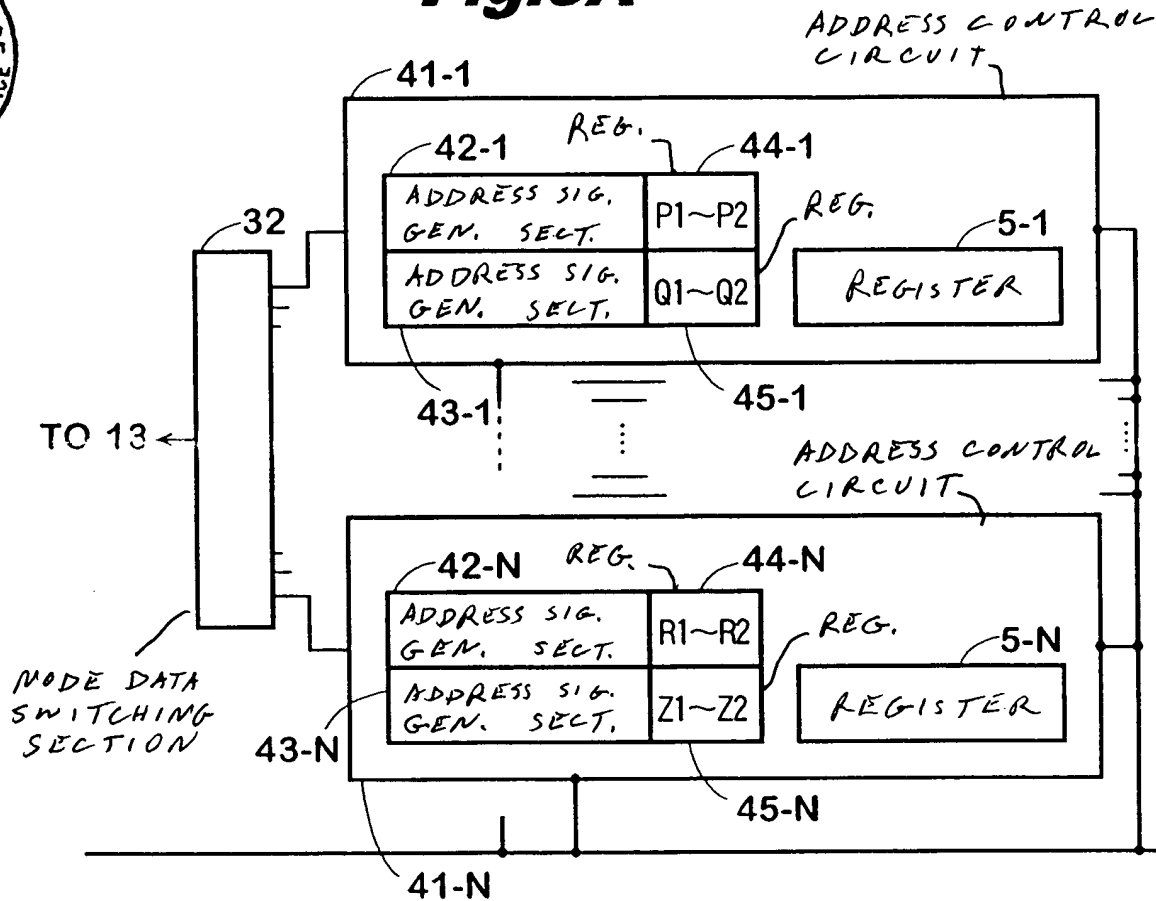


Fig.5A**Fig.5B**

BUFFER
SECTIONS

